THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union 602.*** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

Difficult Readjustments.

A correspondent writes that we speak "scornfully" of ladies who do sewing themselves instead of organising it. This is not correct. No decent person speaks "scornfully" of anyone trying to do her best under very difficult conditions, in which it is often impossible to feel sure what is right. But we would again point out, what, in fact, our correspondent seems to appreciate: that the great need now is for re-organisation of labour. That is precisely why we deprecate any unnecessary increase of disorganisation. The War Office is clamouring for clothes which women can make, yet thousands of working women are out of work. At one Labour Exchange in London, we hear that in one week the number of unemployed women leaped from 250 to 900. It is difficult to readjust supply and demand, but one does not want women to think they have done their duty in time of war if they have done a little manual labour in their spare time. If army contractors cannot supply the War Office with blankets and overcoats, no red-tape should stand in the way of the War Office obtaining these necessaries in the ordinary trade way. Many people must have been greatly struck by the appearance in one newspaper of two columns, side by side, in one of which the War Office was appealing for gifts of blankets on the ground that the manufacturers could not supply them quickly enough, while in the other a well-known firm was advertising that the charitable could buy from them as many blankets as they liked! There are, of course, reasons for this, but the reasons do not seem adequate.

A General Prejudice Against Women.

A strong argument for the enfranchisement of women may be found in a sympathetic reply made by Mr. Ellis Griffith to a deputation which waited upon him at the Home Office on July 16th, to urge the necessity of appointing women police constables. We have just seen the verbatim report, and it appears that Mr. Griffith said that the proposal that local authorities should be compelled to place women as constables on the force would require legislation, and he suggested there might be difficulties. "It may be right, but it is not at all easy. There are prejudices against women generally, if I may say so, and there might be more prejudices against women constables." We fear that Mr. Griffith may be right when he says there is a general prejudice against women; but what an admission! And how every generous man must long to remove that prejudice, and how he must also feel that for men to entertain such a "general prejudice" is the very strongest argument for giving women a chance to speak for themselves. Unless, indeed, men are going to echo Bernhardi's "Might is right," and to assert that since men are stronger than women, they are justified in entertaining a "general prejudice against women" and in acting upon it.

Clerical Workers Unemployed.

It is rather dreadful to read Mr. Wedgwood Benn congratulating himself upon the fact that the administration of the Relief Fund has cost nothing, and we are very much afraid that local bodies are taking the lead from him, and getting clerical work done by volunteers. Meanwhile unemployment amongst women secretaries, clerks, and typists is still serious. The Board of Trade returns based on the figures supplied by Women's Employment Bureaux other than Labour Exchanges show that 168 applications for work were made to the eleven bureaux furnishing returns during August, compared with sixty-six during the same month in 1913. Twenty-six situations were offered by employers, as against thirty-three in August, 1913, and eleven of the 168 applicants were engaged permanently, and fourteen temporarily. Something might be done to stem the tide of unemployment amongst these workers if every relief association would undertake to staff its office with professional clerks and typists, and would notify the Labour Exchanges and Women's Employment Bureaux of its requirements; and if every well-to-do woman giving her time and energies to relief work would engage a resident secretary. Many of these women and girls are suffering in health from lack of proper nourishment. This form of relief work would be double-edged, as it would save some woman from destitution, while at the same time setting free her employer for more organisation work. It is good to hear that the Central Committee for the Employment of Women pays for all its clerical work.

Professional Women Unemployed.

Evidence accumulates that professional women and artists and journalists of all sorts are suffering badly, and in most cases silently. There is a most welcome move to get women employed in banks. One large London bank has taken on four women, another is starting a women's department, and a large business firm of high standing in the City is doing the same. We are not allowed to give names, but we have these facts on reliable authority, and we hope to give further details when the experimental stage is past. We wish to urge very strongly that in places where boys or girls would in normal times be taken on, the

work should, whenever suitable, be given to women, and that public money should be expended in keeping the children at school or sending them to technical classes and physical drill.

The New Navy Separation Allowance.

A naval man sending his family at least 20s. a month will now know that this will be supplemented by separation allowances as follows :—

Sailor.

Class I.—Ordinary Seaman, Able Seaman, Leading Seaman, 2nd Class Petty Officer, and equivalent ratings: Wife per week, 6s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Class II.—Petty Officer, Petty Officer 1st Class and equivalent ratings: Wife per week, 7s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Class III.—Chief Petty Officer, and equivalent ratings: Wife per week, 8s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Marine on Ship's Books.

Private, Corporal, Sergeant, and equivalent ranks: Wife per week, 6s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Colour Sergeant and equivalent ranks: Wife per week, 7s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Quartermaster Sergeant and Staff Sergeant: Wife per week, 8s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Warrant Officer: Wife per week, 9s.; children per week, first child 2s., second child 2s., subsequent children 1s. each.

Motherless children will receive 3s. per week each. The payment in respect of children will be made for boys under 14 and girls under 16 years of age. Sailors' families now residing within the London postal area will receive an additional allowance of 3s. 6d. a week.

Method of Payment.

Unless a sailor's wife gets at least 20s. a month from her husband, it seems as if she had at present nothing to hope for, but this hardship (which we hope is not very widespread, but which must be great where it exists) must be remedied.

Application forms are being issued as rapidly as possible to all wives now in receipt of allotments of not less than 20s., and early payment of the allowance will be greatly assisted if these forms are promptly and carefully completed and returned to the Admiralty or to the Marine Division in the envelope provided, together with such certificates as may be called for. It will not therefore be necessary under ordinary circumstances for any communication to be made to the Admiralty by or on behalf of any person considered to be entitled to an allowance. The necessary authority for payment of the allowance will be issued as soon as possible after October 1st, and the allowance will be payable weekly as from that date to all persons who are then entitled to it, even if there is necessarily some little delay in issuing the authority in a certain number of cases.

Allotments will not be affected by the arrangements made for payment of Navy separation allowance. They will continue to be paid monthly as at present.

American Women and War.

There have been some remarkable leaders lately in *The New York Times*, hitherto a very Anti-suffrage paper. Commenting (August 30th) on the Women's Peace Demonstration in New York, the writer says :—

"But if the manifestation was not palpably necessary it does not follow that it was useless. For one thing, and this perhaps the main thing, it was a concrete expression of the feeling and the profound interest as to war of that vast element in the community the women, who suffer most from war's evils and have least to say or to do, regarding entrance on war. It is by no means certain that the world, in its present stage of civilisation, would be better off if all questions of war or peace, all decisions as to the employment of force, were left wholly to women; but there is no denying that they have a tremendous stake in the matter, and, therefore, are entitled to make their will known. The chief significance of yesterday's procession is that it was an evidence of definite determination on the part of a considerable number of women to exert a practical influence on a field of public action from which in the past they have been almost wholly withdrawn. Those who do not look upon the prospect with much satisfaction must at least take cognisance of the fact, and prepare to reckon with it"

Women and the Machine.

Another particularly interesting comment appeared on September 12th upon the result of the Illinois primary elections :—

"The election had the curious effect of showing the falsity of the expectation that under Woman Suffrage the machines would vote the women in masses for their candidates. This was strictly a machine fight, with no principles or moral issues involved, and the newly enfranchised women stayed away from the polls. In many precincts not a woman voted, and in all Cook County only 8,000 of them expressed their preferences as between bosses. Either the bosses are afraid to exert the influence expected or they cannot get the women out. If men tried to get their wives to the polls to vote for some favourite candidate, they failed. If the election demonstrates anything about Woman Suffrage, it demonstrates that women will not take any interest in merely political fights, where no questions of right and wrong are concerned, and cannot be lured to the polls in such cases by their husbands or driven by bosses."

The Care of Maternity.

Many societies of the National Union are working in co-operation with the Women's Co-operative Guild towards the establishment of maternity centres on the lines laid down by the Local Government Board Circular in July, 1914. It is not easy to report on this work, as it cannot be "rushed" anywhere, and it is premature to speak of the ends towards which we are working as if they were already achieved. It may be worth while, however, to indicate the sort of lines on which we are working, and the sort of difficulties with which we meet.

Our aim is, of course, to get the local health authorities to initiate work, or to extend the work they are already doing, on lines which will enable them to claim the L.G.B. grants. It is so important that the work should be undertaken by the municipality that it is worth a certain amount of delay to ensure this—and the approaching of the local authorities is the work on which many of our societies are at present engaged. The chief difficulty is the disinclination of local councils to undertake any extra expenditure at the present moment, and we can be of use in making them realise that, under the L.G.B. scheme, they can double their work *without* increasing their expenditure. Indeed, they can, temporarily, more than double it by claiming the L.G.B. grant retrospectively for the past six months. For instance, in one place, which shall be nameless as the Council is still "being approached," it is likely that, for the next six months at any rate, *three* health visitors will be employed where one has been struggling to do the work in the past—and not a penny more spent. This is how it is done. The salary of the health visitor is £100 a year. The estimate, therefore, for two half years, March—September, 1914, September, 1914—March, 1915, would be in all £100. To appoint three health visitors for the next six months (September, 1914—March, 1915) would cost £150. The L.G.B. offers to defray half the cost, which leaves £75 to be paid out of the rates. But £25 can be claimed on the salary of the one health visitor who has been employed March, 1914—September, 1915, leaving the cost to the rates £25. The net expenditure of the Council for the twelve months will then be £100 as before. This is one example, but there are various other ways in which the work can be extended without increase in cost, and we find it useful sometimes to submit alternative suggestions, with estimates to the Council. In some places conferences of women are being held to discuss the matter, and pass resolutions; in some a circular letter is signed on behalf of women's organisations; in some a deputation is organised to the Medical Officer of Health, or to the Health Committee.

The feeding of expectant and nursing mothers is, of course, another matter, though where possible it will be worked in connection with the municipal scheme. This has already been started in many places; near Manchester, for instance, there are eight feeding centres, and the Suffrage Society has undertaken the organisation of the food distribution, the Prince of Wales' Fund bearing the expense. Here, again, a difficulty arises in many places, where the local distress committee entirely fails to realise that babies matter, and no grant can be obtained. When this is the case deputations and meetings may again be necessary, and these are being organised in several places. This account is decidedly vague, because the negotiations in most places are still at an early and delicate stage.—But we shall soon be able to give a list of towns and districts where results have been achieved. Of the need there can be no doubt. The scale of relief, especially for civilians out of employment or on short time, is such that the whole family cannot be adequately fed—and we all know that when there is not enough for everybody the mother is generally the first to go without. It is no use to send food to the house, for the mother will probably not be the one to eat it. To get her out to a centre where she is actually seen to eat, is the only way of ensuring that she does so. Moreover, where the feeding is worked in connection with the Public Health Office the diet can be according to the doctor's prescription, and the mothers will get the maximum of good from it.

If there is any place where the need of this is urgently felt, and nothing has yet been done, the local N.U. Society should set things moving at once.

New Schemes for the Employment of Women.

The report of the new Trades Sub-Committee of the Central Women's Committee of the Queen's Work for Women Fund states that, after consultation with the National Federation of

Laundry Associations, Ltd., the Committee have approved a proposal for the employment of workers in a branch of the laundry industry which has not hitherto been developed—the provision of facilities for the mending and darning of customers' clothing.

In the ordinary work of a laundry, a certain amount of mending needs to be done to the garments sent to be cleaned, and in some few cases, workers are kept for this purpose. Generally, on large hotel staffs, for example, there are one or two women employed in mending linen in constant use. The Central Committee think that an opportunity presents itself for the development and extension of this kind of work. It has accordingly been suggested that the Laundry Associations should arrange among their members to employ women for the purpose.

Garments needing attention should be collected at the customers' houses when the laundry van makes its rounds, and returned in the same way after repair. It is proposed that the work shall be done either at piece rates or contract price, as the customer chooses.

There should be considerable scope in this work for intelligent, well-educated women, as certain kinds of mending require a high degree of skill and care. Some of the ladies, for example, who have been employed in convents at embroidery and other fine work, and who are unable to find custom during the war, may well find congenial occupation through this scheme.

Another scheme which has just been started is for making maternity outfits, to be given away when finished through the local Distress Committees. At Bethnal Green a workroom has already been opened under the auspices of the Central Committee, in co-operation with the local Representative Committee. Here some seventy or eighty women and girls, in distress on account of the war, are busy making little garments specially designed on the most hygienic lines, combining economy and simplicity with quite a dainty appearance. Many of the women have scarcely handled a needle before—having been employed at umbrella-making, box-making, and all sorts of different trades—but they are very eager to learn, and, under clever tuition, are beginning not only to sew neatly but to master the mysteries of feather-stitching and button-hole making. Some are being taught machining, others are knitting little jackets and boots, making buttons, or crocheting trimming for the necks of babies' gowns.

Owing to the shortage of skilled maternity aid, at the present time, there is a considerable opening in connection with maternity centres for women accustomed to simple domestic duties. Miss Pritchard, superintendent of the Plaistow Maternity Charity and District Nursing Home (in connection with which about 10,000 cases are nursed annually) has agreed to co-operate with the committee in the training of such workers, and she thinks there would be good openings and permanent employment for them when trained. It is hoped that a number of women, out of work through the war, will be trained under Miss Pritchard's maternity nurses and a qualified supervisor.

The Committee has also gone very fully into the question of fruit-preserving and vegetable-drying as industries for women, and definite arrangements have already been made for a fruit-preserving centre (canning apples and damsons, and apple and damson pulping) where employment will be given to from 75 to 100 women thrown out of work by the war.

It is also intended to establish centres for drying vegetables (potatoes, onions, parsnips, turnips, carrots, &c.), and as there is a considerable demand for dried vegetables, from the army, navy, and merchant service, as well as from restaurants, it should be possible to build up a permanent industry.

A special sub-committee is also considering the problem of finding employment for professional women.

A WOMAN'S HOSPITAL UNIT.

Another Hospital Unit, officered entirely by qualified medical women, left for Antwerp on Sunday, 20th. Sent out by the Women's National Service League, under the direction of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, the corps consisted of Doctors Stoney, Hanson, Watt, Morris, Turner, and Ramsay. They took with them twelve nurses, seven orderlies, three cooks, an interpreter, two mechanics, and a radiographer for the X-ray apparatus, the gift of Lady Cowdray.

The Belgian Red Cross Society sent an official invitation, and will find the building for the Hospital where they hope to maintain one hundred beds.

Dr. Mabel Ramsay is well known in Plymouth, and in the N.U.S.S. work, and is the daughter of Mrs. Ramsay, the "oldest Pilgrim," who walked from Land's End in the Great Procession.

AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS.

American Postal Clerks Declare for Woman Suffrage.

Four hundred and ninety-five out of five hundred delegates, representing thirty thousand men of the United National Association of Postal Clerks have endorsed Woman Suffrage at their Convention at Omaha, Nebraska.

Annual Convention to Meet at Nashville, Tennessee.

The forty-sixth annual Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association will be held from November 12th to 17th at Nashville, Tennessee. Sixty member-associations, comparable with the Federations of the National Union, will be represented. In the call that has been issued the National Association, after referring to "the horror of a great war fallen upon the civilised world," says:—

> "Let us, then, in Convention assembled kindle with the thought that, as we consider methods for the political enfranchisement of our sex, our wider purpose is to free women and to enable woman's conception of life in all its aspects to find expression. *Then woman's horror of war and of all the needless misery, woman's indignation at the exploitation of her sister-woman, woman's care for and wise stress upon the needs of the child will become operative.* Let us set a fresh seal upon the new great loyalty of women to women; let our response be felt in the deep tide of fellowship and understanding between all women which to-day is rising round the world."

This Convention will be the most important, in many respects, in the whole history of the National Association. Who shall say how much America's influence for peace is owing to the partial representation of women in her counsels?

"The Englishwoman."

A remarkable series of articles appears in *The Englishwoman* this month, which will, no doubt, attract considerable notice. Amid the vast flood of contributions to the one absorbing question of the war they can claim equal rank with the more thoughtful articles on the inner meaning of the great conflict in which the civilised nations are involved.

"A Study in Apologetics," the sub-title of Mr. R. F. Cholmeley's article, "Agag and the Gospel," gives the text of the appeal, signed by twenty-nine German professors, missionaries, and bank directors, including the well-known names of Eucken and Harnack, to the "Evangelical Christians Abroad," with parallel columns of extracts from the writings of Clausewitz, Nietzsche, Bernhardi, and Treitschke. That the signatories of the appeal are sincere in their declaration of abhorrence of "the terrible crime of this war" no one can doubt, and every fair-minded man and woman will readily believe their statement that they have consistently worked for the maintenance of peace. What is surprising is that these men should have ignored the effects of the teachings of their fellow countrymen on the political and military leaders of the German nation. The conflict between two ideals is plainly set forth here, and it is significant that one of the advocates of war should have proclaimed that "no people is so little qualified as the German to direct its own destinies."

Miss M. Lowndes writes on "The Recrudescence of Barbarism," a forcible comment on the doctrine that might is right, which, unfortunately, so many applaud, while vehemently inveighing against the ghastly results of that doctrine when pushed to its logical conclusion.

"The Industrialisation of Women in Germany" will come as a revelation to many readers of *The Englishwoman*. Much has been written of the business capacity of the Germans, their astonishing progress in industrial movements, but probably few have realised how largely Germany's industries are based on the sweated labour of women. The Kaiser is credited with the saying that women have only three interests—cooking, churches, and children. Yet he must, like many of our Anti-suffrage statesmen in this country, have turned a blind eye upon the thousands of women struggling for existence in the labour market. It would seem as if the Kaiser's army owed its existence largely to the fact that the labour of German women in field and factory has enabled him to withdraw men from industry without any serious dislocation of civil life.

THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY. *President:* The Duchess of Marlborough.
RELIEF OF WAR DISTRESS will be administered through **LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILS.**
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For information apply to: The Secretary, 62, Oxford Street, W.

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Correspondence.

Editor's Note.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is, perhaps, necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns. So far as space will allow, we will gladly publish letters on matters of public interest. We venture to suggest, however, that controversy is far more interesting and illuminating if controversialists will take for granted that those with whom they disagree are also seeking for truth and justice.

SOLDIERS' WIVES AND THE WAR OFFICE.

Madam,—After reading the article entitled "Wives" in The Common Cause of September 25th, Suffragists and others may like to see another side of the picture which redounds to the credit of officers' wives so harshly criticised in the above-mentioned article. Owing to the fact that there are about 100,000 troops at Aldershot, and many of them quartered in the most wretched circumstances, it was absolutely necessary to remove the soldiers' wives to make room for "K. of K.'s Army." The "tactless and unsympathetic ladies" represented to the War Office that the proposed notice to quit was far too short, and obtained a respite for these women who otherwise would have had to turn out of their quarters at a few hours' notice. Added to this these "ladies suffering from an attack of nerves" had the forethought to provide for expectant mothers, who, if they had been removed from Aldershot, would have lost the benefit of being attended to when their time came at the Louise Margaret Hospital. The Hon. Lady Haig, wife of General Sir Douglas Haig, sent for Dr. Edythe Lindsey (Chairwoman of the Local Branch of the N.U.W.S.S.), with the result that a hostel, manned by the Aldershot Women's V.A.D. was quickly fitted up, and the expectant mothers are comfortably cared for by these ladies, assisted by a nursing sister, till the time for removal to the hospital is due, and about ten days after their confinement the mothers return to the hostel to convalesce.

Any civilians unacquainted with garrison life from the inside on reading "Wives" would have impressed on their minds the idea prevalent, I believe, in cheap fiction, that an officer's wife is a frivolous fool, who on occasions like this steps into the lives of Thomas Atkins's womenfolk for the first time. Nothing could be more misleading. I know scores of officers' wives who are most skilled workers amongst the women and children of their husbands' regiments, who devote hours a week to mothers' meetings, visiting the women in their quarters, and last, but not least, at "shirts." Many a time when I have been staying in barracks with my Service relations have I attended these functions, and been greatly struck with the sympathetic relations existing between officers' wives and Tommies' wives. Therefore, who would be more suitable to deal with the needs of soldiers' wives and children than the very officers' wives who know them, their needs, failings, and peculiarities. Mrs. Thomas Atkins is a very different person to Mrs. Hodge, and no one resents outside interference with her affairs more strongly than she does. She is as much imbued with *esprit de corps* as any man in the regiment, and has an immense contempt for mere civilians whom she thinks in many cases, I regret to say, fair game to impose on.

"The irresponsible, untrained, honorary women" did their best, but that the result was perhaps bad in some cases was probably not their fault, but arose from the fact, doubtless, that the prejudice against soldiers' wives is so strong amongst cottagers that temporary homes could hardly be found, at any rate in this village, for soldiers' wives and children. A few cottagers would have taken them in so as to escape having troops billeted on them.

If any of your readers could have seen Aldershot as it was a short while ago as I saw it, they would not be surprised that it was thought wise to remove the women and children. Soldiers were rolling drunk in all directions, and early in the afternoon too; attempting to molest women, and grossly impertinent to ladies—an Aldershot such as none of us had ever seen before.

Dorothy Edwards.

Horsham.

[*There is a certain amount of misunderstanding in Miss Edwards's letter. The "harsh criticism" was not in our article, but from the lips of an officer's wife. Nothing in the article suggested that there were not many officers' wives who took immense trouble to learn how to help, and help effectually. What is needed is that the War Office should recognise soldiers' wives as an integral part of the community, not as "appendages," and that officers' wives who wish and* know *how to help should be given status and power.*—Ed., "C.C."]

NEW ALLOWANCES FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

Miss Edith H. de Gex writes that the Army Order on the subject of allowances makes no limit of families, but adds a note, "and so on, with an addition of 2s. for each additional child."

[*We are very glad of this. When we went to Press we had nothing to go upon but Mr. Asquith's answer in the House, reported in our last issue, that for the purpose of payment four children "is treated as the maximum."*—Ed., "C.C."]

WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT.

Madam,—Your comments on Miss Nora O'Shea's letter are reasonable and weighty. May I add a strong remonstrance against utterances which tend to commit the Women's Movement to any definite policy on any question except the one unanimous demand for equal opportunities and equal freedom? What use we shall make of those opportunities and that freedom will be for each of us to decide individually, and no doubt many of us will decide differently. In the meantime, as a matter of policy, to advocate equal Suffrage on the ground that women as a sex will be in favour of peace, temperance legislation, stricter laws on sexual questions, greater liberty in marriage law, &c., is just to array against our movement all who either are opposed to such action, or distrust our wisdom in carrying it out. We have a right to our voice on these matters, whatever we are going to use that voice to say, and its verdict should not be prejudged.

In the meantime, I can think of nothing which would cause men more greatly (and reasonably) to mistrust our judgment in national action than a feminine agitation for a premature peace. It will be time enough to talk about that when we have thoroughly defeated the Power which at present stands for faithlessness, cruelty, and barbarism. To stop short of that goal would mean to leave to our children the fatal legacy of an armed truce such as that in which we have been living for years—the burden of enormous armaments, the necessity for cultivating a perpetual readiness for war. No; in the name of Peace we must finish this war in such a fashion that it will not have to be done again. There are thousands of peace-loving, freedom-loving people in Germany; but under the shadow of Prussian militarism they cannot make themselves heard or felt: it is for us to create for them a silence in which they can speak, an empty space which they can fill.

Agatha M. (Mrs. A. S. H.) Richardson.

Dublin.

Madam,—I read with dismay and consternation the letter of Miss N. O'Shea in last week's issue of The Common Cause respecting the "Women's Peace Movement."

If Suffragists are at this crisis going to advocate an "early cessation of hostilities," it will only prove that the Antis are right in arguing that women are unfit to form an opinion on Imperial matters. Moreover, it will alienate the sympathies of many women who, while thoroughly approving the principle of Women's Suffrage, are utterly opposed to such a short-sighted and suicidal policy as that of the pacifists. In the words of our King: "We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."

Ellen Chapman, T.C.

Worthing.

Madam,—While nations possess armies, it is the duty of England to stand by the weak States. We cannot hope to stem the tide of *this* war; but we can plan a peace-treaty which shall exclude the possibility of future war.

If we could determine the elemental principles of Democracy which would be acceptable to all nations, it would be the foundation of an international citizenship. A scheme which would mobilise mind-force and heart-feeling seems the only alternative to the present system of decision by force of arms. The Germans have concentrated their thought-force on war. If peace is to be made permanent, the thought-force of the world must be concentrated on the reform of social and political laws. Cannot every parish arrange meetings so that neighbours may gather together and give their earnest thought to the harmony of human law with the Divine purpose? Christians must believe that Christ would be in their midst.

Florence Hodgson.

20, Penbury Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea.

Madam,—I feel exactly as you write, "it is by no means unreasonable to feel I am against war; but I am not prepared to stop *this* war *now*." As a non-militant member of two Suffrage Societies I do hope the sensible women of the British Empire will not allow the flower of their country to be sacrificed for their safety, and then call peace for the benefit of what has been proved to be a cowardly, cruel country. Were it no other crime than the continued treachery against the Red Cross and the White Flag, the Germans are proved cruel and cowardly. Their crimes against defenceless people call for their abasement to the dust; their crimes against art and culture call for their surrender of any art treasures at present in their country; their crimes against morality by lying to all the countries of the earth call for their being discredited in history. The fact that vengeance is not allowed to men must not keep us from giving justice. The war must be pursued with vigour and deep earnestness, although had women been in the Councils of the Nations it might never have begun. Trusting that you will not forget to advocate the Common Cause of justice as well as mercy.

A. J. Leslie.

Torquay.

"*For Britain's Glorious Welfare*" writes urging immediate overtures of peace.

Madam,—As an old Suffragist I should like to ask those of your readers who are so eager to make peace whether they are prepared to send Poland back to its Prussian tyrants, to continue the martyrdom of Alsace and Lorraine, and to allow Prussian tyrants to break treaties without punishment? Prussia stands for the rule of that brute force against which Suffragists protest, and to make peace before she is crushed would be to set up the rule of might against right.

J. Arthur Price.

8, Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn.

THE MATERNAL INSTINCT.

Madam,—We must all feel glad and thankful that in the present national crisis, the women of our Society and the women of Britain as a whole have answered so splendidly to their country's call. They have shown courage and endurance, have helped, and are helping, the suffering in every way in their power, and are caring for the welfare of the next generation. These are all ways of repairing the terrible breaches which war makes, and it is important that we should patiently and untiringly "carry on" in these directions. But there is another work, which is essentially woman's work, and that is the difficult work of "labouring for Peace."

The present indescribably horrible state of things must have filled the hearts of all who feel deeply with a cry that is heart-breaking in its intensity, and that asks: "Why has it happened?" "How is it possible?" And those of us who "profess and call themselves Christians" have received a cruelly rude blow to our Faith and Hope.

We must face the situation, and see that this war means that, as individuals and nations, we have been living—thinking, speaking, and acting—in such a way that such a thing was possible. We have built on wrong foundations, and we are each responsible in some degree. The question is: "Can we begin to build on right ones?" I hope many of us can answer "Yes." Is it not for us women now, even while the din of battle roars in our ears and hearts, to hold up to the world the ideal of the Prince of Peace, of Universal Brotherhood?

The old proverb, "Prevention is better than cure," always holds good, and the only way to prevent war is to remove the causes of war, which exist in the mentality of individuals and nations. When we can remove narrowness, ambition, revenge, and fear, and all other destructive thoughts from our minds, the root cause of war will be destroyed. Is it

too big a thing to hope for? I believe nothing is too big for the love of women, the mothers of the race, to attempt. Long æons ago the spirit of altruism was born into the world, when the mothers of lowly animal species first showed care for their offspring. May we not hope that the day is near when that maternal instinct will reach the plane where it can hold up to the world a higher standard of altruism than it has yet aimed at, even the standard of universal Peace and Love?

CECILIA A. RAWLINGS.

DIFFICULT READJUSTMENTS.

MADAM,—May I say something for the "ladies who are sewing shirts and pyjamas for our soldiers, while professional workers starve," who are spoken of so scornfully in the *Weekly Notes*. Voluntary workers are of two classes—First, rich women, some of whom have not been in the habit of doing much for others; as the product of their labours is not likely to be so vast as to upset the labour market, and, if they are interested, they are sure to pay others to help them, surely they should be encouraged. Second, the large number of middle-class and working women also anxious to help, who never have much to give, and just now are many of them in great anxiety as to what financial straits their own households may be in before the war ends, and therefore cannot possibly pay to have work done, but can give a certain amount of time to help. The new Army of 300,000 men stands in burning need of uniforms, shirts, boots, socks, blankets, bedding, and shelters, which the Government cannot obtain fast enough, and at the same time replenish the stores at the front and fit out the Territorials for the winter, and in many cases for service abroad. There is no shortage of work at present; that will come after the war: to-day, there is only great, very great trade disorganisation, and until the labour market has been readjusted to meet the new conditions, it is well if the most urgent needs can be supplied in any possible way. There are at this moment in the Aldershot command 100,000 men, half of them under canvas, who for the most part have neither a shirt to change nor an overcoat to wear. There are countless appeals for the wounded, the refugees, and our sailors. The demand is so great that even when the workers are all brought into touch with the work, there will be still room for volunteers. Many a lady sewing shirts and pyjamas is doing it as a kind of offering to the gods, with a feeling that if she does her best for anyone she can help, the kindness will be repaid to the soldier or the sailor whom she loves, and so she wants the toil to be her very own—something done by herself, not by paid hands.

SYLVIA CLARK.

[*This letter is referred to in "Notes and Comments."*—ED., "C.C."]

PAWNBROKERS' CHARGES.

MADAM,—May I call your attention to a misstatement in this week's COMMON CAUSE with regard to pawnbrokers' charges (in the article entitled "State Recognition of Sailors' Wives").

The interest on any loan up to £10 is regulated by Act of Parliament, and the interest on 8s. for one month is 2d. (not 2s.), which is 25 per cent. per annum, not per mensem, as stated in the article.

F. FISH (A Pawnbroker's Wife).

Finchley.

CLASSES FOR WORKING GIRLS.

MADAM,—As your correspondent, L. H. Ensor, pointed out, the Evening School curriculum is frequently very narrow in its scope; and it is indeed well that another correspondent drew attention to the good work of the Workers' Educational Association. Nevertheless, it is very possible that there may be great numbers of women whose needs are mainly in the direction of fellowship, and opportunity for full and free discussion of all the varied problems that arise in our personal and national life. Such opportunity for discussion and such fellowship are to be found in the Adult Schools scattered all over the country. The Adult Schools (both men's and women's) work in close co-operation with the W.E.A., but their methods are more informal than those of a W.E.A. class. Education by discussion and debate, rather than by formal instruction, is the central method of these schools. There is no rivalry between the two movements; they are, indeed, the closest allies; but their methods are designed to meet quite different needs.

If those who desire to know more of the Adult Schools will write to me, sending a stamped reply-postcard, I will endeavour to put them in touch with the Secretaries of schools in their immediate neighbourhood. I should add that there are no fees of any kind to be paid in these schools.

RONALD H. KIDD.

21, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.

THE TREATMENT OF SPIES.

MADAM,—I wonder how many of your readers will agree with me in regretting that our men in the field have to shoot the spies they capture. We read in *The Times* of September 7th:—

"They are shot without exception, but their loss does not affect the continuance of the system in the least. Ten may be found in a village and shot one day; there will be twenty there on the next."

So this practice apparently does not effect its object. But it may have a bad effect on those who carry it out and see and hear of it. Our men have covered themselves with glory, and not the least occasion for our pride in them is their consideration for the enemy's wounded and for prisoners. Now, it must be a very unpleasant thing, until you have become hardened to it by use, to shoot a man who stands before you, unarmed and forlorn. It were better not to become used to it. After all, a military spy is serving his country in a very risky way, and, when captured, surely merits as much respect and consideration as other prisoners.

In a word, shooting such prisoners does not put down spying, but may injure ourselves by diminishing one of our most cherished possessions, namely, the kind-heartedness of our soldiers.

Incidentally, the habit of treating spies like other prisoners might actually diminish spying, by inducing some of the spies, whose heart is not in it, to give themselves up.

I believe that the discontinuance of the practice would raise our army still higher in the estimation of the world.

ARTHUR ST. JOHN.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Daughters.

Quite recently, the writer, walking along a suburban road, saw a small boy-scout cheerfully coming towards her. His face was one big grin, his eyes were bright, he looked as kind and confident as a young creature should, and he was striding out, brown and sturdy, when he caught sight of a girl about his own age on the opposite side of the road, to whom he sang out, "Hallo, Rosebud!" The girl was slouching along, dragging her feet, her whole figure limp and listless, her face pale and dejected. She heard what he said, for she gave one shoulder a peevish shrug, but she did not look up or answer. So again he cried, "Hallo, Rosebud!" And then, glancing sideways and downwards at him, she called sullenly, "I'm *not* a Rosebud! I'm a White Rose." "Oh," said the boy-scout, still cheerily, "it's the little 'uns that's the Rosebuds, is it?" And the girl nodded sulkily and slouched on, while the boy-scout scampered away whistling.

My heart went out to that dejected White Rose—I remembered my own childhood. How I, the one girl, was "the worst boy of the lot" in a family of boys; how savagely I resented being told that boys might romp, and get red in the face, and tear their clothes, but that a girl should be quiet and tidy; how sick I felt later when I was set to learn, "Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever"; even at the age of twelve it seemed to me that it was possible to be both. The young of that generation were given a good deal of Kingsley, and my stubborn heart cried out against the refrain that "Men must work and women must weep." I wanted to work, too—weeping didn't seem an occupation. To sew and be submissive is not, and never will be, a programme that appeals to all girls. When shall we believe it? I thought how different that listless White Rose would be if she were given a chance to do what the boy-scout did; if, instead of the sedentary occupations and the goody-goody precepts, her life was filled with colour and adventure and activity like his; if, instead of being one of the "supplementary sex," she were given the full status of a person, with individuality and pride, and a positive and vital business in the world, instead of such an array of negative virtues as her mawkish name suggested.

The Boy Scout movement was the conception of an older man, but the organisation is carried out by the young leading the young. The sort of movement which is so sorely needed among girls, and of which there are, indeed, the first rather timid beginnings, must be, in the main, a movement of the young leading the young. It is true older women can be helpful. But what modern girls want is not only sad-eyed older women patiently trying to understand them; they want young leaders who can understand without so much trying. A few, a very few older people remember vividly what it feels like to be young. Most don't remember with the sharpness which is all that really counts; their memory is marred by the older judgment which spoils all. "I have seen the folly of dances," says the mother in *Punch*. "Oh, mother," replies the girl, "mayn't I see the folly of one?" And in this business of remembering, there is another point to note. Women over forty remember a world of girls extraordinarily different from the modern world of girls.

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Even if they succeed in escaping the classical lament of the older generation, which finds expression in the cry, "Ah, things were very different in *my* day!"—even if they can perform the rare feat of admitting that new things may be better than old—they cannot have the same energy and outlook, the same nervous spring as younger women. In the new world that is opening to women, the young must lead the young, and one wants to ask the older women and men, the mothers and fathers and guardians of young women who might be leaders, whether they are helping or hindering this possible leadership.

The middle-class mother especially must ask herself, "Am I helping my girl to help her sex and generation? Am I, in my anxiety to shelter and guard my precious daughter, refusing to allow her to take her part now in this supreme and world-wide test of war? Am I still insisting that she shall do only the thing that can be done by the ignorant and the untrained? Am I keeping her an amateur and a slacker? Am I maintaining that lamentable tradition that voluntary work may be ill-informed, and unorganised, and intermittent? Do I still believe in my heart that the main duty of a daughter-at-home is to dust the drawing-room, and 'do the flowers,' and that she must on no account become absorbed in any pursuit, lest she should cease to 'be there,' on tap, so to speak, for any futile or frivolous call?" It is not easy to be persistent and self-reliant and do all that one does with the best of one's brains, and the utmost concentration of one's powers; it is difficult. Men find it difficult as well as women; but there is much still to be found in the traditional upbringing of girls which is positively directed to debauch their wills, and distract their energies, and dissipate their efforts. No one conception does more in this direction than the false conception of women as "the supplementary sex," of wives and families as "dependents," or even more insultingly, "incumbrances."

But mothers of grown girls—poor mothers, crucified as they now are by what they have to yield of their sons—have yet another difficult task from which they must not shrink. There is work of rescue that only the young can do. The tragic youth of girls on the streets convinces me that friendship, comradeship, fellowship—call it what you will—might have saved those girls; but it should be the friendship of the young, who feel and understand the need of colour, and amusement, and finery as elder women do not. These young leaders must, however, not be ignorant. It is our mistaken habit to call a woman a girl until she marries or becomes elderly, and this habit reflects a very real wrong. A normal young woman of twenty or twenty-one, if she has been reared in a bracing moral atmosphere, and given plenty of work and responsibility, should be strong enough to have the knowledge necessary for dealing with the world as it is. This knowledge in no way soils her purity, but arms it with strength and compassion. Yet there are many young women who are sheltered from knowledge by their parents, and this artificial ignorance is made the excuse for preventing them from being of real service. Most fond mothers (and fathers even more) shrink from granting this bitter knowledge, and they shrink too, from giving a daughter the liberty to sacrifice herself. In all love, the parents of Florence Nightingale held her back for thirty years. It is not every girl who has so clear a vocation. The exceptional girl will win out in spite of loving parents, but the mass of ordinary decent young women have not the strength to resist coddling, the will to concentrate, the brains to think hard in despite of paralysing affection.

The young must make sacrifices—Yes. But perhaps the greatest sacrifices are asked now of the old. They must not only give their sons to death; they must give their daughters to life, real life. And that may be as hard.

H. M. S.

Patriotism in the Back Streets.

From a general perusal of the daily papers in the last fortnight, it would seem that at last a growing section of public opinion is awakening to the unsatisfactory position, to use a mild term, of many of the dependents of those now on active service. The realisation of this position has led the far-seeing few to condemn the Government for offering a sweated wage to two of the most indispensable of this country's public servants. The many, however, have voiced their protest by an attack, not upon those responsible for the distress already prevalent, but upon the methods of those engaged in relieving that distress. Yet in this, as in all other diseases to which the State is liable, it is the old, hardly-learnt lesson with which we are faced—namely, that prevention is better than cure. These men who are willing to risk their lives for their country and for their country's honour, deserve a liberal acknowledgment of that sacrifice from the State. That acknowledgment they have not received. The remuneration offered by the War Office to soldiers and sailors is even now inadequate. And yet we are not fighting, as the Kaiser would have us believe, for the sake of "a little bit of paper." We are fighting, as the Prime Minister has declared, "in defence of principles the maintenance of which is vital to the civilisation of the world." Material remuneration in such a case is a poor thing enough, but in that it is the only possible remuneration, it should at least be such as to show that the sacrifice entailed is not only realised, but appreciated at its true value.

We at home glibly praise the indomitable courage, the unquenchable wit of the British Tommy in the firing line. Equally we praise the dogged patience and iron nerve of the blue-jacket waiting and watching in the North Sea. Shall we not realise that these qualities will, very humanly, be increased tenfold when each and every unit in the two services realises that those he has left behind are at least not suffering materially by his absence? Who in the last month has not met many a man ready and eager to do his part, but held back by the problem of an apparently divided duty? (Have the idle women of the White Feather Brigade paused to study the economics of this problem?) The question for the man who draws a weekly wage must often be one of sacrificing upon the altar of a cruel necessity either his duty to his family or to his country. Were the Government in its turn alive to the duty it owes to every man serving or willing to serve his country in this crisis, the ordinary citizen would never be called upon to solve such a problem, or to make such a sacrifice. True, the Prime Minister announced lately an increase in the separation allowance to the wives of soldiers. Yet even now, in many cases, especially where the family is a large one, it is not such as to obviate the necessity of applying for relief. To all those, however, who have been visiting the homes of men on active service, the decision of the Government to recognise officially the mothers and sisters of unmarried soldiers must come as a great relief. Previous to this decision, the straits to which some of those "dependents" (how Parliamentary an expression!) were reduced even after the granting of relief, were pitiable. In one small street alone, the completeness, the homelikeness of three such homes had been destroyed; family treasures had been "put away," relief money being sufficient for the immediate needs of existence only. After October 1st, when, we are told, the new system will come into existence, it is good to know that patriotism will no longer necessitate such subterfuges.

But since, for very lack of the realisation of all that patriotism means materially to the poor, the question of the relief of the families and dependents of those fighting is an urgent one, it is inevitable that the critical faculty of many at home should be turned rather to the defects of the preventative measures adopted than to the absence of any efforts to effect a permanent cure. Doubtless much of the relief work done up till now has been in some cases chaotic, in others amateurish. This, seeing the suddenness and the size of the problem to be faced, was inevitable. Again, the very fact that the task was largely one for the earnest voluntary, as opposed to the paid worker, made a certain amount of disorganisation at the start inevitable. Much of this disorganisation, it is to be hoped, is now a thing of the past. Already it is beginning to be realised that districts, to be worked effectually, must not be too unwieldy in size; otherwise the relieved are obliged, as has already been commented upon, to wait their turn, sometimes for nearly two hours, before they can even be registered.

In the East End of London, and particularly in the districts largely populated by the casual or dock labourer, distress followed in many cases immediately after enlistment. In these districts, weekly incomes are precarious things at best, and there is seldom any question of a bank-balance. With no money in hand from the previous week, and the bread-winner only just drafted into his regiment, entailing a necessary delay before any "ring-paper" is received by the wife, or any remittance sent by the husband, relief must be given as speedily as possible. The casual hand receives no half-pay from an employer, and consequently, any unnecessary delay results in acute distress. Those who have investigated many of these cases are tempted to wonder if the upper and middle classes realise the extent of the sacrifice made by the man who, at his country's call, exchanges the tools of his craft for the sword. Yet, despite the scanty recognition of this sacrifice by the War Office, it is made willingly, not only by the wage-earner, but by the wage-spender. The East End wife and mother, who has watched her husband go, and cheered him in the going, only to return to the old struggle with a reduced income and a lonely hearth, is, to those who have seen it times out of number, a thing to make one

marvel. Over and over again, new and supreme sacrifices are made cheerfully, unostentatiously, in homes where every hour of normal life demands its sacrifice. So often this sacrifice is of necessity intensified when it is realised that to so many of the very poorest women of the East End the reasons of this great war are largely shrouded in mystery. One longs to gather these mateless women and fatherless children of the slums into a great class, and explain to them the why and wherefore of the sacrifices they have so willingly made at their country's call. Kitchener, French, Jellicoe—such names and faces are familiar to all. But, "the Kaiser, he never did like his cousin George, my boy that's fighting says," is typical of many tentatively offered explanations. Statements such as this, some casually let drop, others openly proffered for criticism, show the need of a little simple enlightenment.

Again, a little simple enlightenment, not only of the whys and wherefores, but of the whereabouts, helps enormously. "The placing of foreign parts is a puzzle, if you like, Miss," said one woman with an only son who had been engaged in the naval actions off Heligoland. And the waiting was made, if not easier, at least more interesting, when a rough sketch on the table cloth located the distance between London and the unknown foreign part where the son was doing "his bit." Sometimes the hopefulness is temporarily shadowed. A child is sick, or news, anxiously expected, is deferred. Then the sympathy and help of the visitor often count for much. One is almost ashamed at the gratitude shown for the explanation of how to address the absent soldier or sailor, or how to get at different identification papers for the War Office.

The courage, and the quiet, unostentatious patriotism of these men and women in the back streets, where cheap Jingoism and flagwaving do not penetrate, make one ashamed to step in with "relief"—to offer a dole in return for unstinting and unquestioning sacrifice. Shall we, by this war, have learnt at least one lesson—to value, if only materially, such aspects of human nature at their true worth?

B. M. P.

EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS.

We are glad to learn that *The Englishwoman* is holding its fourth annual Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts at the Maddox Street Galleries from November 4th to 14th. At the present time, when many proposed exhibitions have been abandoned, a market for craft-workers is particularly needed. Many village industries will also be exhibited, their need for support being greater now than ever, as in the general distress they are likely to be overlooked for nearer and more obvious claims.

A FEMINIST PLAY.

On Saturday next the first performance of a feminist play, "The Sphinx," by Jeanette Steer, will be given at the Court Theatre at 8 o'clock. Miss Steer has got together a strong caste, including Barbara Everest, Mattie Black (pupil of Italia Conti), Maria Creegan, Marianne Caldwell, Kitty Marion, Stella Campbell, Gilian Scaife, Langhorne Burton, Henry Hargreaves, Richard Hicks, Stanley Roberts, and Henry Daniell. The play will be given every evening next week at 8 o'clock, and on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2.30. Tickets at the usual prices can be obtained from the Box Office, Royal Court Theatre, and from the usual agents. Box Office telephone, 848 Gerrard.

ECONOMICAL RECIPES.

Fish Soups.—Most English people do not know what excellent and cheap soups can be made from fish. If a large piece of fish has been boiled, the stock should be saved and the head, skin, fins, tail, &c., together with some lemon peel and a blade of mace, should be simmered in it for a couple of hours, and then strained and allowed to cool. Put 2 oz. butter or margarine into a bright saucepan and let it melt, draw it off and stir in a dessert-spoonful of flour; when this is quite smooth, stir in a pint of fish stock; return to a slow fire, and stir until it thickens a little, then draw it off. Take any remnants of the cooked fish, free from bone or skin, pound them finely and add to your thickened stock with as much unthickened stock as is necessary for a good creamy consistency. Add a dash of anchovy sauce, and serve hot with *croûtons*.

Shell fish, such as scollops, periwinkles, mussels, all make excellent and very tasty stock. Instead of the *croûtons*, forcemeat balls can be used. For these, you take a cupful of bread crumbs and a cupful of pounded fish; moisten with a little milk and anchovy, shrimp or lobster sauce; bind with one egg; roll into little balls, and drop them into quickly boiling water to poach for a few minutes; drain and serve in the hot soup.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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Notice: Office Hours.

Owing to the very great rush of work at the National Union, people desiring interviews can at present only be received between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Belgian Babies.

In spite of the notice in The Common Cause last week that the National Union could not supply Belgian babies to all the kind people who desired to adopt them, that the Government was only sending them to Catholic homes, and that, in any case, individual offers of hospitality could not be dealt with by the authorities just at present—in spite of all this, we still receive generous offers from people who seem to have gathered the impression from the notice that the National Union has an unlimited supply to draw on. Mrs. Streeter is very anxious to prevent disappointment, and wishes to say that the National Union is not directly dealing with Belgian Refugees. This work has been taken over from the various organisations by the Government (which, however, makes use of their established machinery). The Government is not now dealing with individual offers of adoption for Belgian children: they are being cared for in large groups, and are well and happy.

Hospitality that is Urgently Required.

Mrs. Streeter is very anxious, however, for hospitality in London for social and relief workers, and also for professional women and girls who are stranded owing to the war. This hospitality is needed in London itself, not in the suburbs. Those who are in need of it cannot afford the time or the money to go backwards and forwards from the suburbs to their work, or to their search for work.

Home Wanted for a Small Boy.

Can any reader offer a home for a few months to a small boy of two and a half years, delicate, subject to bronchitis, whose parents, owing to illness and the war, are in sore straits? His people are respectable working folk, who have a large family of young children. Offers should be sent to Mrs. Streeter at Headquarters. Several generous offers have been made by our members in response to Miss Griesbach's appeal for hospitality for a boy.

Boarding-Houses—A Suggestion.

A large number of ladies who keep boarding-houses, among them many of our own National Union members, are feeling the effects of war acutely, especially those whose *clientèle* was made up of young men in business, and foreigners. The Germans and Austrians and French and Belgians have long since been called up, and now the young British business men are enlisting. The boarding-houses are deserted, and the rent and taxes are to pay. On the other hand, there are numbers of distressed people out of employment. If funds were forthcoming to cover the rent and running expenses Mrs. Streeter could very soon provide the organisation to turn these empty houses to good account, and at the same time to help the homeless. In this connection Mrs. Streeter wishes it to be clearly understood that the National Union is not in a position to provide ladies who run boarding-houses with paying guests. The people who come to the Office for help and advice usually need hospitality, and are not at all in a position to live at boarding-houses or to rent furnished rooms. If they were, they would not be applying to the National Union for assistance.

Active Service League Headquarters. The Shop, 50, Parliament Street, Westminster.

The Shop Window.

Mrs. Smart, the "window dresser" of the shop, makes a practice of displaying photographs from the picture papers, showing groups of British soldiers who are prisoners in Germany, or who have been snapped by the ubiquitous press photographer in some Continental town. There is generally a little crowd of men and women, too poor to buy the papers,

scanning these pictures, and the other day our window dresser had the pleasure of hearing that an elderly working man had recognised his son in one of these pictures. It is rather pathetic to see the relief of many of these anxious people, when they have ocular demonstration that our soldiers are being humanely treated by the Germans when taken prisoner. The stories of atrocities have added a great weight of horror and anxiety to many a poor mother's heart, and ignorance and imagination wedded have produced monstrous fears.

Grateful Letters.

A pleasant feature of the Active Service League work this week has been the reading of a number of letters of gratitude for help received, work found, hospitality provided, and also from the givers of hospitality, who write to thank Mrs. Streeter for sending them such delightful guests. Those for whom the League has found work in London generally find time to come back to the shop and thank Miss Jetley personally for the help received. This help continues to be of a very various nature. Another woman emigrant has been fitted out at almost a moment's notice, the supply of good left-off clothing recently received coming in very useful. A girl miniature painter, absolutely destitute, was fed and comforted one day, and the next, by what would appear to have been sheer good luck, was provided with a commission. One does not expect people to be wandering about wanting miniatures of their children painted just now, but the unexpected happened, and the artist got her commission.

What the League Stands For.

Readers will remember the delightful story about the letter (containing a cheque for the Belgians) addressed to the "Place of Refuge" finding its way straight to its billet at the London Society's offices. It would seem that the Active Service League Headquarters are also regarded as a Place of Refuge. One day a girl of nineteen came in, weeping and tired out. She told her story frankly. She had run away from home: she had taken to a night life on the streets: she loathed it: she wanted to give it up—and so—she had come to them. She went willingly to a Rescue Home that night, and is determined to earn her living honourably in future. Another woman had been a singer in a touring company for fourteen years, had lost her work on the outbreak of war, and then her voice. She came to the A.S.L. the morning after she had pawned her underclothing for her supper. She was a well-educated woman, and the League were fortunately able to find her employment almost at once. Another day two German subjects—that is to say, British women born and bred who had lost their nationality on their marriage to Germans living in this country—came and asked for work. They were destitute. One had a baby thirteen weeks old, the other expected one in eight weeks' time. They had been servants in a boarding-house. Temporary shelter was found for them at once, and work has since been provided for one family. These are typical of the cases that come before the National Union every day. At the moment the workrooms are almost overcrowded with people, who cannot be turned away to starve on the streets. More funds are urgently required to pay them their wages.

Who Sent Them?

The following letter has been received at Headquarters:—

Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth,
24th September, 1914.

"Major Cecil Wedgwood, 8th Service Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment, presents his grateful thanks to the Secretary and the Members of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies for their kind present of shirts for the troops."

We hope that this will catch the eye of the Society which sent the present, as Headquarters have no knowledge of the gift.

Pressing Needs.

For the workroom at 50, Parliament Street.—Strong trestle or kitchen tables. Clean and mended cast-off clothes. (New ones not objected to.) Blankets. Boots. Material—especially print for servants' dresses, and muslin for aprons and caps.

Funds to carry on the work. It cannot go on without them.

Rooms, rent free, suitable for workrooms, in all parts of London.

Many Thanks!

Our best thanks to all who have sent donations of money, gifts of material, and offers of hospitality; to Mrs. Illingworth for the very welcome parcel of new coats and skirts sent to Miss Jetley for distribution; and to Mr. Stephen Lewis, of Messrs. John Lewis, for the splendid box of material for our workrooms.

Dates to Remember.

All Members of the N.U.W.S.S. are asked to keep free the evening of October 20th, so that they can come to the Kingsway Hall Meeting on "Women's Work in Time of War." The reserved tickets cost 5s., 2s., and 1s. There will be no sixpenny tickets after all, but this should double the total from these seats to be handed to the Active Service League and Queen Mary's Work for Women Fund. Miss Eleanor Rathbone will not be able to speak, but the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, a member of the Belgian Relief Committee, has promised to do so. Readers are again reminded that the Provincial Council will be held at Wallasey on November 12th, and that resolutions for the preliminary agenda must reach Headquarters by Thursday, October 8th.

Press Department.

Readers who want to keep themselves informed of the work being done by women during the war will find the "Queen" a useful paper. Last week it published an interesting article by Mrs. Fawcett on the work being done by the National Union. *The Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*, among evening papers, is devoting considerably more space to the activities of women in war time than most other journals, and keeps itself well informed as to the special work of the National Union. It is distinctly refreshing to find that some newspapers recognise that women's work in time of war embraces something wider than sewing parties and knitting teas.

ACTIVE SERVICE FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,389	19	2
Miss Madeline Glaster	5	5	0
Miss E. M. Leaf	5	0	0
Mrs. M. Barnard Davis	5	0	0
Mrs. McCabe	1	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin	2	2	0
Miss Eileen Peel	1	0	0
Miss C. W. Simpson	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander	2	0	0
Miss F. E. Bevan	0	10	6
Miss J. M. Evans	0	2	6
Mr. T. Tindle Anderson, Jun. (1st monthly donation)	0	2	6
Miss J. Tennant	1	0	0
Miss Patrick	0	6	0
Mrs. Bradley	0	5	0
Mrs. Marion Withiel	5	0	0
"M. L. P."	20	0	0
Mrs. Elizth. A. B. Stevenson	2	0	0
Miss Janet Hamilton Thomson	0	10	0
Mrs. Edgar	0	5	0
Miss Elinor H. Leresche	0	2	6
Mrs. Barlow	10	0	0
Miss Lyon	5	0	0
Mrs. C. Winifrede Graham	0	10	0
Miss Constance Newton	0	10	0
Miss E. Rush	0	5	0
Miss E. D. Spence	0	5	0
Miss Janet Dodge	1	0	0
Scalby W.S.S.	2	10	0
Mr. J. S. Mann	1	1	0
Miss E. M. Gunter	1	1	0
"F.," Rock Ferry	0	10	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
Miss Gertrude Fletcher	0	5	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (third weekly instalment)	0	1	0
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Miss Stawell	0	5	0
Miss E. M. Aldis	0	10	0
Miss Robinson	0	10	0
Anonymous	0	1	11
Miss Morison	2	0	0
Miss Fawcett	5	0	0
Pressman	0	2	0
Miss Macdonnell	0	5	0
	£1,472	2	1

"THE COMMON CAUSE"—UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AS SELLERS.

The following donations have been received in response to Mrs. Fyffe's letter: Miss D. A. Courtney, £1; Mrs. Oppenheimer, 5s.; and Miss Shore and Mrs. Bernard, 7s. 6d. (this last being three months' instalment of 2s. 6d. promised monthly).

An American correspondent sends us fifty dollars, with the kind remark, "You will know how to use it to the best advantage for English women hit hard by the war." We propose to use the money in paying unemployed women to sell the paper.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers or paid sellers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, when pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots Arranged.

City Depot.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Miss Cohn has kindly consented to distribute papers to sellers and receive the returns, &c. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the City is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

W.C. District.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C., has kindly consented to take charge of the Holborn and S. St. Pancras District. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Mrs. Paul will distribute papers to helpers any day except Sunday.

Depots Wanted.

We particularly need a depôt near (1) Hyde Park Corner, (2) Marble Arch, (3) High Street Kensington Station. People would sell far more than they do if they could obtain copies of the paper on Saturdays and Sundays especially.

A Yorkshire Factory Town.

Feeding Centres for Mothers.

These are abnormal times and abnormal measures are necessary. Whatever may be thought as to the advisability of feeding expectant mothers en masse in normal times there can be little doubt as to the wisdom of doing so now, when it behoves every one of us to husband our resources. There are two points which appear of paramount importance at the present time.

(1) The need for the best and most economical use of food stuffs;

(2) The absolute necessity for fostering young life in view of the enormous losses which the war entails.

In our opinion these two factors outweigh at the present time other considerations. The practical experience of a feeding centre may be helpful to others starting a similar enterprise.

The Babies' Welcome Committee of this North Country town opened a Centre in one of the poorest and most thickly populated districts. We undertook to feed expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age who were in distress. We considered that the families most likely to be in distress were those affected *indirectly* by the war rather than the wives of soldiers who are provided for in other ways. But we have not excluded any class, as there are always "hard cases." We were able to secure the equipment of a restaurant which had been run for mill girls, but which had been closed on account of the war, so that we had no initial outlay. The room was lent us rent free.

Then as to food and cost. So far we have not adhered to any special diet. We have provided plain wholesome food at the lowest possible cost, and we have made the menu as varied as possible. Here is a week's menu :—

Monday, Meat and Potato Pie.
Tuesday, Irish Stew.
Wednesday, Mutton Broth and Suet Pudding with Jam.
Thursday, Stewed Rabbit—Potatoes.
Friday, Soup—Boiled Damson Pudding.
Saturday, Stewed Beef—Potatoes.

We find that we can give this dinner for 4d. a head including a charge of 1s. per day for cleaning, washing-up, &c. With regard to the cost there are several points to notice :—

(*a*) We had no rent to pay.
(*b*) We had the equipment lent us.
(*c*) We had to pay wages for cleaning only as the Society which lent us the room lent us also a cook and made no charge for coals, &c. Probably in any other town similar arrangements could be made. The money to provide the dinners is met by a special grant from the local Central Relief Committee.

There are one or two practical points with regard to catering which it may be useful to note. We asked for a contract from the butcher when we started feeding, but this was refused on the ground that prices change from week to week. It is necessary therefore to watch prices carefully. For stews, pies, &c., we buy "beef cuttings" which are economical and good. We find stewed rabbits work out well and the mothers like this dinner. The children have the same dinner as the mothers but less in quantity, and the smaller ones have no meat—vegetables, gravy and bread only. We have given soup twice a week though this is not very popular—but we find that the pudding which we provide on the soup days to some extent compensates. If the price of fish comes down sufficiently, we shall provide fish or fish pie once a week.

The mothers enjoy their dinners. It is a rest to eat something you have not prepared yourself and to be waited on by friendly ladies. We try to make the room look pleasant for them by putting flowers on the table. We also try to arrange to take the babies away from the women while they are having their dinner, but this is not easy as it requires at least two helpers apart from those looking after the dinners.

In order to press the Educational side we have made a point of urging those mothers who are not already doing so, to go to the Babies' Welcome each week where they are given advice about feeding, &c., and the babies are weighed.

It is early days yet to speak of results. Indeed it is always difficult to measure results in work of this kind. But the enforced walk to get the dinner; the good food prepared by someone else; and the pleasant restful atmosphere ought to bear fruit beyond mere increased physical well-being.

[*The W.S.S. is co-operating in this scheme.*]

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Norwich.

At the beginning of the war the Norwich Society sent out to all its members a register paper asking them to state in what way they could help in the crisis. A number of useful forms of service were tabulated on the paper. The response was splendid.

Five weeks ago a room in the Guildhall was turned into a registration office, and here the Norwich Society, supported by the Distress Committee, started registering applicants for relief on the L.G.B. case papers. The cases were afterwards investigated. Some 350 cases have been registered to date, and about 100 of the women have been employed in workrooms opened to aid those in urgent need of assistance. A paid forewoman is at the head of each workroom, and is assisted by volunteers. The garments made are to be distributed through the Ward Committees. Some of the girls are to be given lessons in cookery, and others are to be employed in a small laundry organised especially to do washing for the troops. In the evenings one of the workrooms is turned into a club in order to provide other attractions for the girls than the streets. The work is carried on in co-operation with the Labour Exchange, no girls being given work who have not first applied to the Exchange. In the case of the younger girls the rate of wages paid is less than 3d. per hour, as otherwise—sad to relate—the Society would be offering a higher rate of pay than the girls ordinarily get, and the workrooms cannot afford to upset the local Labour market. More than £100 was collected privately to start the Relief Work Scheme, and it is hoped that a grant may be given from the L.G.B. or from the Queen's Fund to enable the scheme to carry on. Although the Society is not officially responsible for the scheme, a fair share of the work done and of the money subscribed comes from its members, and at the outset the Society offered to become responsible for the workers required to organise the scheme should it be necessary.

Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S.

The relief of distress in Leicester has been carefully organised, and members of the Suffrage Society are taking their full share in the work. Miss McTurk Alexander represents this Society on the Mayor's Committee for the Administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and several other members of the Society are on the Committee in different capacities. All relief funds are placed under the same management, and at present the large majority of applicants are the wives and relatives of soldiers. Distress among the general population is happily far less than was expected. The Mayoress and a band of helpers are giving special attention to the employment of women with the kind co-operation of some of the manufacturers in the town. Some of the members of the V.A.D., including several Suffragists, have been privileged to meet ambulance trains of wounded soldiers at the station, and to offer them light refreshments before they were driven to the Base Hospital.

Dunstable.

A League of Friendship has been formed, and a meeting held to which all women in the town wishing to give help were invited. A register of names was made, and a list drawn up of those willing to undertake to befriend one poor family, visiting at least once a week and making known their needs in the right quarter. This is to continue till the war is over, or as long as may seem necessary. Clothes are being made for those in need, but care is being taken not to undertake work that would otherwise be paid for. Occasional classes in economical cookery are held, and every effort is being made to show the women how to make their income go as far as possible.

Hayward's Heath.

The Women's Committee has drawn up a complete list of houses in Hayward's Heath and Wivelsfield from which men have gone to the war, and it will be responsible for the visitation of all cases of illness in families of soldiers and sailors and other sufferers from the war, including maternity cases, for which such help will be needed.

A Women's Employment Bureau has also been opened, and it is proposed that a crèche shall be arranged in conjunction with a workroom, where women workers can be employed at needlework (with teaching if necessary) at the rate of 3d. an hour.

Newport, I.W.

The Newport Women's Suffrage Society is devoting its energies to the Belgian Refugees' Fund and the Mayoress's Needlework War Guild. Over 800 garments have been sent to the Belgian Refugees, and another consignment will be despatched shortly. Mrs. Hobart, President of the Newport Society, has presented her house at Hythe to the War Office as a Hospital, to be maintained at her own expense with accommodation for 25 patients.

Shrewsbury.

The Recruiting authorities in Shrewsbury recently asked the local Society to open an Enquiry Room for Soldiers' Wives, and this has been done. Wives of recruits can now obtain advice and information directly their husbands have enlisted, and this should materially lessen the work of the S.S.F.A., as it has already relieved the Recruiting Office.

Scalby.

Encouraged by the success of the "Flower Day" held at Scalby and Newby on September 14th our President, Lady Tancred, organised another on September 22nd for the villages of Cloughton and Burniston. Motorists kindly allowed themselves to be held up at one or other of the stalls and the proceeds amounted to £18 2s. 3d. This makes a total of nearly £54 from the four villages in the area of our Branch.

Slough.

On Friday and Saturday, September 18th and 19th, the Slough Society, helped by many friends from outside, organised the sale of Belgian Badges for the relief of Belgian refugees. The scheme was taken up with the utmost enthusiasm and the sale of badges realised £170 15s. 5d., more than £63 of which was given in copper. This total was doubled by a generous subscriber who helped in many other ways also, so that with the addition of something which was sent on afterwards, the sum of £341 15s. 4d. was sent to the Belgian Minister to dispose of as he thought best.

[*We have already given accounts of what many Societies of the N.U. are doing, but are still glad to hear of any new piece of work that is being undertaken.*]

Suffragists on Relief Committees—Final List.

Ardrossan.—Three members of the local society are on the local Relief Committee.

Dumfries.—Two members of the local Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Dundee.—Three members of the local Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Esher and East Molesey.—Five members out of thirteen women on the "Investigation and Relief Committee" are Suffragists.

Forfar.—Six members of the local Society are on the local Relief Committee, of whom two are official representatives of the Society.

Gourock.—Three members of the Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Greenock.—Two members of the Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Guildford.—Several members of the W.S.S. are on the War Distress Committee and the "Queen's Work for Women Fund" Sub-committee.

Motherwell.—Five members of the Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Oldham.—Of the nine women on the Oldham Relief Committee, eight are Suffragists.

Oxted and Limpsfield Society.—Both the Oxted and Limpsfield War Committees elected a representative of the W.S.S. on to their Committees. Besides official representatives, we have several members, both men and women, serving on these committees.

Peebles.—Two members of the Society are on the local Relief Committee.

Perth.—One member of the Society is on the local Relief Committee.

Wallasey.—The Suffrage Society offered their services to the Mayor and were invited officially to send three representatives to serve on the General Committee for Relief of Distress. An executive of twenty members was formed, of this six are women, four being members of the Suffrage Society and one the official representative of the Society. Two of the men members of the Committee are members of the N.U.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Edinburgh—October 2nd—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Speaker, Miss Alice Low—Subject: 1. "Recent Experiences in Germany." 2. "The Work of the N.U. during the War"—Chair, Miss S. E. S. Mair 4.30

Edinburgh—October 9th—40, Shandwick Place—At Home (in aid of Relief Work of N.U.W.S.S.)—Play: "In Time of War," Miss F. R. Raeburn—Recitations: Miss Lilian Brotchie and Miss Oswald—Violin: Miss May Lawson—Tickets, 1s. Tea, 6d. 4.0

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?

The large London Market enables
ROBINSON Bros. of
5, Hampstead Rd. (nr Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St. E.C.
To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, 2036 North.
ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

WANTED.—Orders for Cut Flowers, Wreaths, Room Plants, Window Boxes; Care of or laying-out of London Gardens. Also Home-made Jams, that more employment may be given during the War, instead of less.
WOMEN'S GARDENING ASSOCIATION,
62 and 64, LOWER SLOANE STREET.
ORDERS PLACED FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE

A LARGE VARIETY OF
ART POTTERY
AT
MRS. BERRY'S,
72, JUDD STREET, W.C.
(*One minute from St. Pancras Station.*)
Cornish and Devon Ware.
Old English Patterns in Leadless Glaze.
Please call and see if you do not find the very thing you want.

MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S.,
(Trained Swanley Horticultural College, and Elmcrop Nurseries—Westergate. Many years' practical experience.)
Care of Gardens undertaken by day or half-day.
Gardens Designed and Laid Out. ADVISORY WORK.
SPECIALITY made of Pruning; the laying out of Herbaceous Borders, Rock & Wall Gardens, etc.
Further particulars apply: 28, WATERLOW COURT, HAMPSTEAD WAY, HENDON, N.W.

ON SALE NOW
COMMON CAUSE
BUGLER GIRL POSTERS,
single crown, 20 inches by 15, printed in scarlet on white ground. The Bugler Girl is on right-hand side, leaving space on left for announcements of news likely to be of local interest. Price 1d. each. Postage paid on orders of 1 doz. and upwards.—Write Manager, "C.C." Office, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

POSITION VACANT.

WANTED, Assistant at Maitland Sanatorium, to teach simple handicrafts, chiefly embroidery, to patients; Board and lodging and, after training, salary at £25 a year.—Miss S. I. Welsh, Maitland School of Needlecraft, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

CO-EDUCATION.—High Wycombe Godstowe Preparatory School. Girls and boys prepared for public schools, with at the same time natural home surroundings, open-air life, handicrafts, and hobbies. School may be seen at any time by those interested in modern education.—Head Mistress, Mrs. George Scott. For Prospectus apply to Secretary.

ARTS AND CRAFTS WORKERS. Special facilities, exhibitions. Ladies' society with excellent business premises, offer exceptional opportunities for business. Large clientele.—Box 3,441, "C.C." Office.

MRS. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., recovers overpaid Income Tax, buys or sells Stocks and Shares, effects all kinds of Insurances and Annuities, Mortgages, Loans, or Reversions, or any business of a legal or financial nature.—Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone: Central 6049.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.—A reliable medium for efficient governesses, companions, housekeepers, nurses. Recommended hotels, pensions, families, schools receiving guests and students. Business profits for war charities.—199, Victoria-st., London.

MEDICAL.

CERTIFIED MASSEUSE.—General, deep massage for rheumatism and constipation, Swedish exercise, and face treatment. A free trial given by appointment. Terms moderate.—Mrs. Cooper, 45, Alwyn-avenue, Chiswick, W.

FULLY TRAINED NURSES supplied at any time. Telephone night or day.—Apply Superintendent, 61, Gloucester-crescent, Gloucester-gate, N.W. Telephone: 6770 Hampstead.

PRINTING, &c.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM—R. Crombleholme, General Manager. Enquiries solicited.

MOTORING.

MISS A. PRESTON
Teaches Motor Driving, "Running Repairs," Country Pupils. *Officially recommended by the R.A.C.*
2, ST. MARY ABBOTT'S PLACE, KENSINGTON.

TYPEWRITING.

MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk, Manchester.

TYPEWRITING, TRANSLATIONS. Best work. Special terms to Suffragists.—Mrs. Marks, The Moorgate Typewriting Co., 63, Finsbury Pavement, E.C. Telephone, 5638 London Wall.

LAUNDRY.

BUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Hand-done shirts and collars. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

DRESSMAKING, MILLINERY, &c.

CORSETS MADE TO ORDER, from 12s. 6d.—Emilie, 17, Burlington Arcade.

MISS BAXELL, 19, Richmond-rd., Westbourne-gr., W. Inexpensive day and evening gowns. Coats and skirts. Blouses Remodellings. Ladies' own materials made up at moderate prices.

MADAME VINE, Milliner, 34, Kirkdale, Sydenham. Ladies' Toques a speciality.

MORA PUCKLE will make up customers' own material during September in order to keep her staff of workers together; embroidered dresses, coats and djibbahs, tailored coats and skirts.—399 Oxford-st. (opposite "Times'" Book Club), entrance Gilbert-st.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest West-End and Paris styles, from 3½ guineas. Patterns sent on application.—H. NELISSEN, Ladies' Tailor, 14, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-st., W. (near Waring's).

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is all wool, guaranteed unshrinkable, and gives lasting wear. Write for patterns and buy direct from the actual makers at first cost.—Dept. 10, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

BUSINESS AS USUAL during the present War Crisis.—Second-hand clothing wanted to buy for cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description. Parcel sent will be valued and value sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-st., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 3s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 3s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. (State whether fine, medium, or broad nib required.)

HAIR FALLING OFF.—Lady who lost nearly all hers, and has now strong, heavy growth, sends particulars to anyone enclosing stamped addressed envelope.—Miss C. C. Field, Glendower, Shanklin.

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FURNISHED FLAT, on Cheyne Walk, river view, 1st floor; 3 rooms, bath, telephone; from Nov. 1st, 30s. weekly; Suffragist owner out of work; must sell up if unable to let; readers please view this before ordinary agents' recommendations.—Apply "V.," c/o COMMON CAUSE.

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THE NATIONAL UNION.

ACTIVE SERVICE FUND.

I enclose Cheque / Postal order for £ : s. d. for the Work organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in relief of distress caused by the war.

Name _____
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Cheques to be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, crossed London County and Westminster Bank, and sent to the N.U.W.S.S., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

WOMEN'S WORK IN TIME OF WAR.

PUBLIC MEETING

ORGANISED BY

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies,

KINGSWAY HALL

(KINGSWAY, W.C.)

Tuesday, Oct. 20th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. FAWCETT, LL.D.,

SPEAKERS:

Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton,

Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Auerbach, Miss I. O. Ford,

Mrs. Hills (Miss Margaret Robertson), Miss Mary Macarthur,

Miss Rathbone, Miss Royden,

AND OTHERS.

ADMISSION FREE: Reserved and Numbered Seats, **5/-** and **2/6**, Reserved (unnumbered), **1/-**. Tickets can be obtained from the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster (Tel. 1960 Victoria); also at 50, Parliament Street, S.W.; and at the Hall.

The Proceeds of the Meeting will be divided equally between the Queen's Work for Women Fund and The Active Service Fund of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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